

SPIDER-MAN UNMASKED

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The Sensational SPIDER-MAN



ROBERTO AGUIRRE-SACASA

CLAYTON CRAIN

DIRECT EDITION

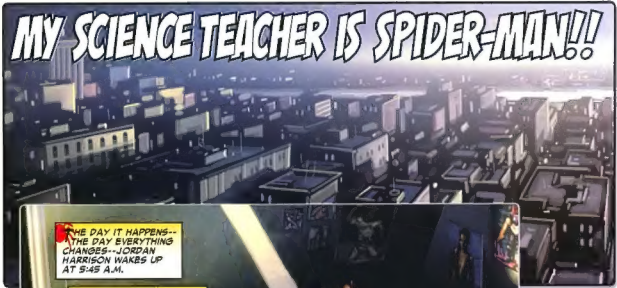


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MY SCIENCE TEACHER IS SPIDER-MAN!!



THE DAY IT HAPPENS--
THE DAY EVERYTHING
CHANGES--JORDAN
HARRISON WAKES UP
AT 5:45 A.M.

HE'D BEEN DREAMING
ABOUT MADELINE DANIELS.
(SHE'S HIS LAB PARTNER
IN BIOLOGY.)

ROBERTO
AGUIRRE-SACASA
WRITER

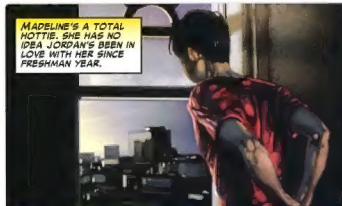
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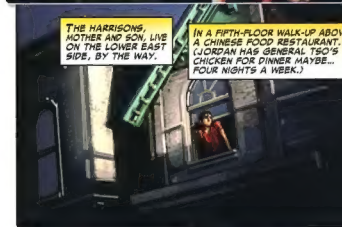
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MADLINE'S A TOTAL
HOTTIE. SHE HAS NO
IDEA JORDAN'S BEEN IN
LOVE WITH HER SINCE
FRESHMAN YEAR.



THE HARRISONS,
MOTHER AND SON, LIVE
ON THE LOWER EAST
SIDE, BY THE WAY.

IN A FIFTH-FLOOR WALK-UP ABOVE
A CHINESE FOOD RESTAURANT.
(JORDAN HAS GENERAL TSO'S
CHICKEN FOR DINNER MAYBE...
FOUR NIGHTS A WEEK.)



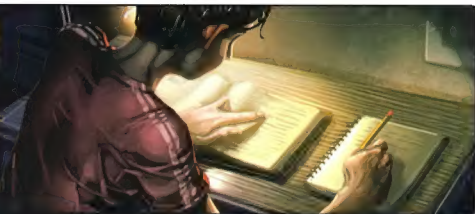
WHY 5:45?
WHY THIS
MORNING?

TO STUDY. LIKE HE
DOES EVERY MORNING
DURING THE WEEK.
(SATURDAYS, HE SLEEPS
UNTIL 8; SUNDAYS, UNTIL 9.)

JORDAN'S A DECENT STUDENT. HE GETS MOSTLY BS AND CS, NO DS, AND ONE A.

IN BIOLOGY.

DESPITE MADELINE DANIELS AND HER SWEATERS.



NUMBER ONE: ALTHOUGH HE'S NEVER KNOWN HIS DAD (LONG STORY), JORDAN FOR SOME REASON IMAGINES THAT HE'S A SCIENTIST.

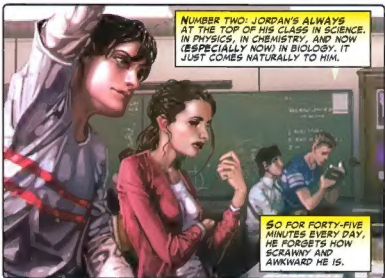
WORKING WITH A TEAM OF OTHER SCIENTISTS, ON A SECRET PROJECT IN THE MOUNTAINS, LIKE OPPENHEIMER DIP.



FOR A LOT OF REASONS, SCIENCE--IN ALL ITS PERMUTATIONS--HAS ALWAYS BEEN JORDAN'S FAVORITE SUBJECT.



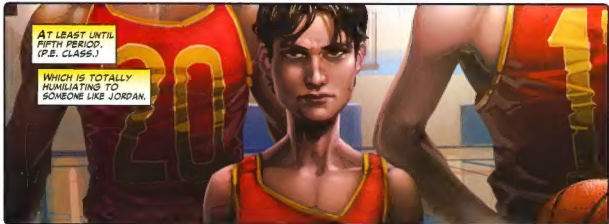
NUMBER TWO: JORDAN'S ALWAYS AT THE TOP OF HIS CLASS IN SCIENCE. IN PHYSICS, IN CHEMISTRY, AND NOW (ESPECIALLY NOW) IN BIOLOGY. IT JUST COMES NATURALLY TO HIM.



SO FOR FORTY-FIVE MINUTES EVERY DAY, HE FORGETS HOW SCRAWNY AND AWKWARD HE IS.

AT LEAST UNTIL FIFTH PERIOD. (P.E. CLASS.)

WHICH IS TOTALLY HUMILIATING TO SOMEONE LIKE JORDAN.



NUMBER THREE: JORDAN'S ALWAYS CONNECTED WITH HIS SCIENCE TEACHERS. ESPECIALLY HIS CURRENT ONE, A YOUNG GUY NOT COMPLETELY UNLIKE HIM NAMED:

--PETER PARKER, BUT YOU CAN CALL ME MR. PARKER.

NORMALLY I JUST TEACH CHEMISTRY, BUT THIS YEAR, BECAUSE OF CUTBACKS, I'M TEACHING ONE SECTION OF BIOLOGY...

"...YOU LUCKY FOLKS."

JORDAN...?

...KIDDO, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN UP ALL NIGHT, HAVE YOU?

(THIS IS JORDAN'S MOM. SHE'S A PARALEGAL AT THE FIRM OF MURDOCK AND NELSON. AND A WORRIER.)

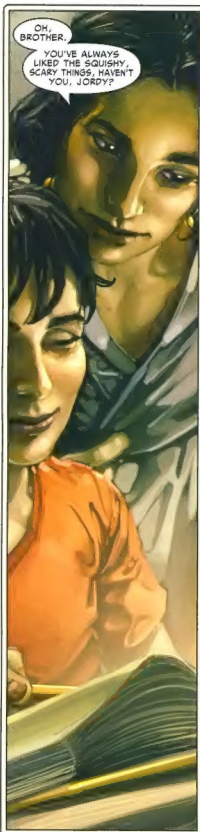
NO, MOM, JUST A LITTLE WHILE. AND IN THE FUTURE, COULD YOU PLEASE-- KNOCK?

... IN THE FUTURE, I WILL. AND COULD YOU PLEASE--YOU KNOW--GET DRESSED AND JOIN ME FOR BREAKFAST? YOU'RE NOT LEAVING WITHOUT EATING AGAIN, KIDDO.

FINE, FINE. LETME JUST FINISH OUTLINING THIS CHAPTER, OKAY?

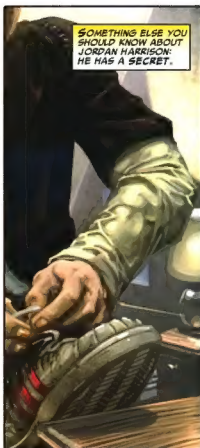
... WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

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"DON'T YOU 'WHATEVER' ME, KIDDO. AND I MEAN IT--GET THE LEAD OUT, GET READY, AND GET DOWNSTAIRS."



SOMETHING ELSE YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT JORDAN HARRISON: HE HAS A SECRET.



ONLY ONE OTHER PERSON KNOWS WHAT IT IS:

PETER PARKER.



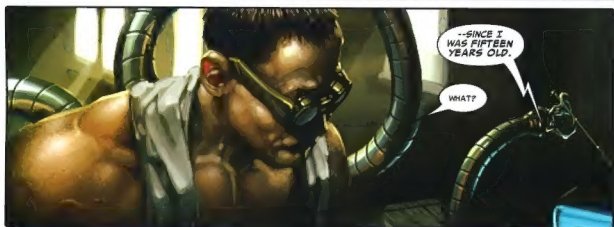
DUDE--
MOM--ARE YOU BURNING MY EGGS AS PUNISHMENT FOR BEING LATE? 'CAUSE IT SMELLS LIKE...

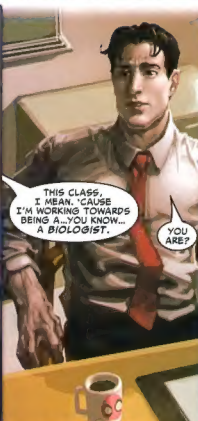


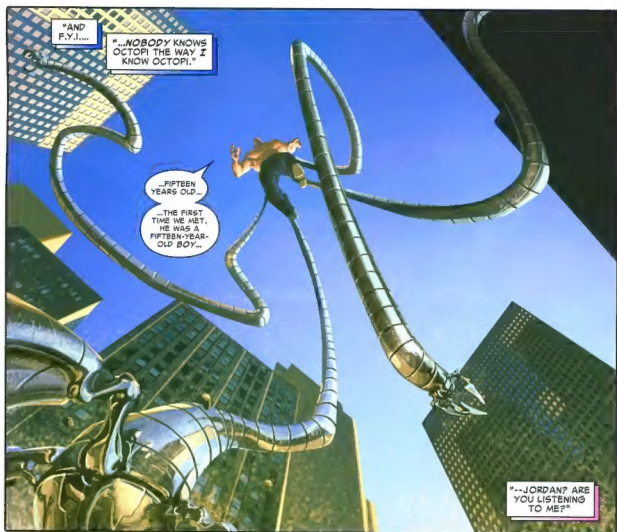
--MOM?
WHAT'S GOING ON, WHAT'S WRONG?

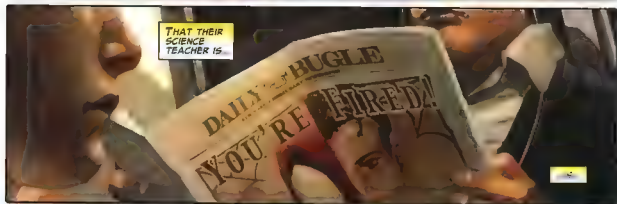
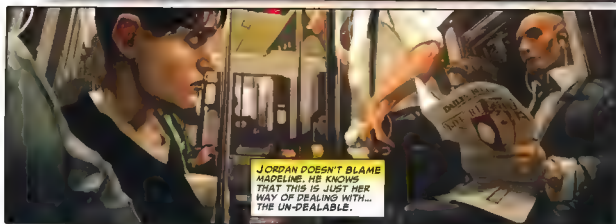
IT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT BUT THEY'RE...THEY'RE REPLAYING IT ON THE NEWS...













OH MY
GOD. MY SCIENCE
TEACHER WAS--

--IS--

--SPIDER-MAN!

AND JORDAN
THINKS!

"HOW DID HE
FEEL BEFORE
HE DID IT?
WHERE WAS
HE RIGHT
BEFORE?"

OKAY.
THAT'S...
GROSS

"THROWING UP? NO
WAY TO BE SURE,
BUT PROBABLY."



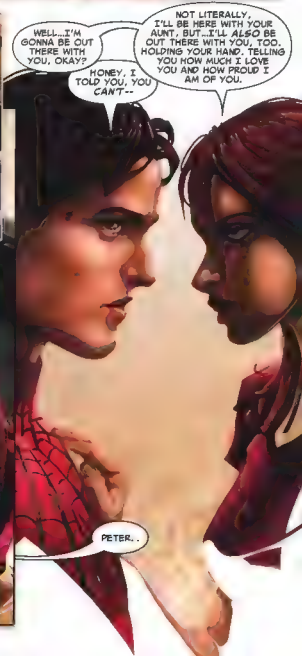
"WHO WAS HE WITH?
THAT OLD LADY WHOSE
PICTURE HE KEEPS ON
HIS DESK? OR MAYBE
HIS WIFE? ISN'T MR.
PARKER MARRIED TO A
SUPERMODEL OR
SOMETHING? WHO'S
ALWAYS CALLING HIM--"

YOU OKAY,
TIGER? BECAUSE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO
DO THIS, YOU KNOW.
YOU CAN STILL
BACK OUT.

UNFORTUNATELY,
HOTSTUFF..

..THAT'S
NOT AN
OPTION

(AT LEAST, THIS IS HOW
JORDAN IMAGINES THE
SCENE PLAYING OUT; NOT
FAR FROM THE TRUTH,
BUT NOT QUITE IT, EITHER.)



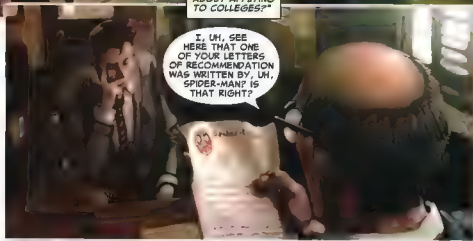
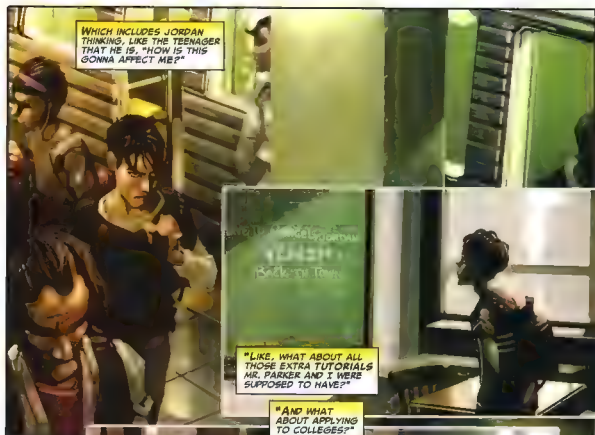
WELL...I'M
GONNA BE OUT
THERE WITH
YOU, OKAY?

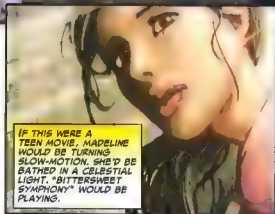
HONEY, I
TOLD YOU, YOU
CAN'T--

NOT LITERALLY,
I'LL BE HERE WITH YOUR
AUNT, BUT...I'LL ALSO BE
OUT THERE WITH YOU, TOO.
HOLDING YOUR HAND, TELLING
YOU HOW MUCH I LOVE
YOU AND HOW PROUD I
AM OF YOU.

PETER..











"HADELINE, WE
HAVE TO DO
SOMETHING!"

"LIKE WHAT? AND
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN 'WE'? I DON'T
EVEN LIKE BIO."

SHOW ME
YOUR FACE! I
WANT TO SEE
YOUR FACE--

--PETER!
PARKER!

YOU...
YOU WANNA
SEE IT, OTTO?
YOU WANNA
SEE
IT THAT BAD?

FINE--
--THERE.

HEHEHE
HAPPY
NOW?



"HAPPY" ...?

OTTO OCTAVIUS'S MIND IS REELING. THE MEMORY OF A SCENE NOT UNLIKE THIS ONE RISES IN HIS CONSCIOUSNESS--AND BLOTS EVERYTHING ELSE OUT.



IT WAS YEARS AGO. (BACK WHEN HE WORE A GREEN JUMPSUIT.)

HE AND SPIDER-MAN WERE FIGHTING, AND HE--FOR ONCE--WAS ACTUALLY WINNING.

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!! YOU'RE LIKE A HUMAN PUNCHING BAG!! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU??



OCTAVIUS SHOULD HAVE BEEN THRILLED-- OVERJOYED, IN FACT-- BUT HE WOULDN'T LET HIMSELF GO THERE.

HE'S ALMOST UNCONSCIOUS!! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!

HE DOESN'T EVEN STRUGGLE AS I TRY TO REMOVE HIS MASK! THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE ANSWER...



OTHER PEOPLE WERE PRESENT, AS WELL, THEIR VOICES ECHOING ACROSS THE YEARS:

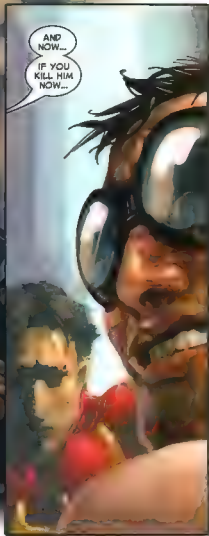
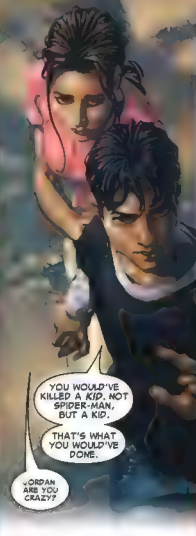
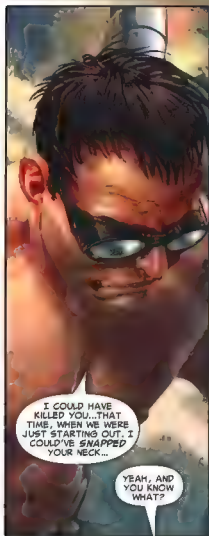
MR. JAMESON-- LOOK! HE'S BEATEN SPIDER-MAN!

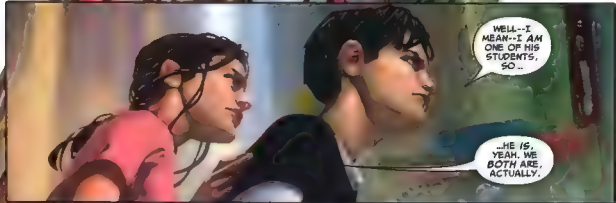
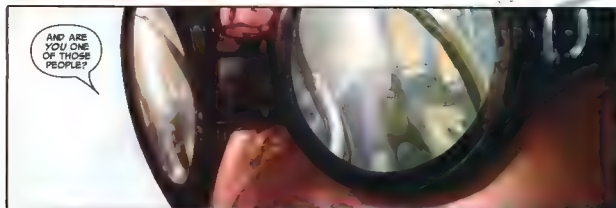
SO QUICKLY!! HOW? AND--WHERE'S PARKER? HE SHOULD BE PHOTOGRAPHING THIS!

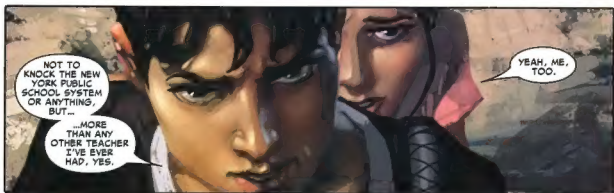
IT IS DR. OCTOPUS! GOOD THING YOU CALLED US, MISS!



I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!! IT ISN'T SPIDER-MAN! IT'S THAT WEAKLING BRAT, PETER PARKER!



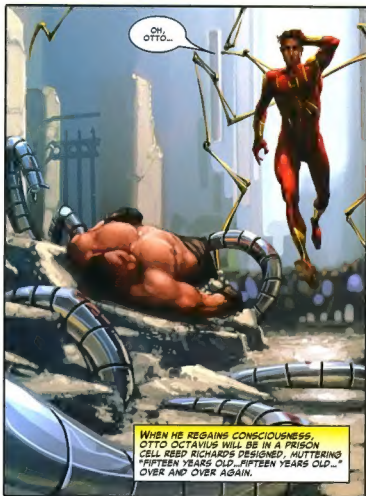






WOW, MR.
PARKER'S, LIKE,
TOTALLY
HARDCORE.

RETHINKING HER STANCE
ON SCIENCE NERDS,
MADELINE DANIELS WILL
BE DATING JORDAN
HARRISON BY THE END
OF THE WEEK.



WHEN HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS, OTTO OCTAVIUS WILL BE IN A PRISON CELL REED RICHARDS DESIGNED, MUTTERING "FIFTEEN YEARS OLD... FIFTEEN YEARS OLD..." OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

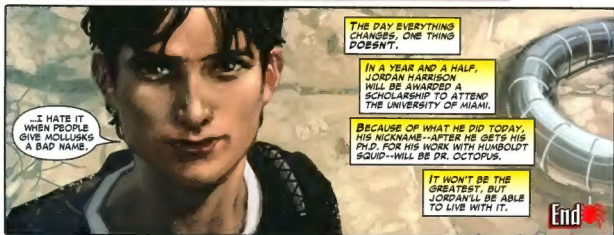


THAT WAS... GOOD WORK, MR. HARRISON. PRETTY BRAVE FOR A...



...98-POUND WEAKLING?

YEAH, WELL, THIS IS KIND OF MY MAKE-OR-BREAK YEAR, SO I FIGURE YOU SHOULD PROBABLY BE ALIVE TO, YOU KNOW, HELP. PLUS...



THE DAY EVERYTHING CHANGES, ONE THING DOESN'T.

IN A YEAR AND A HALF, JORDAN HARRISON WILL BE AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI.

BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DID TODAY, HIS NICKNAME--AFTER HE GETS HIS PH.D. FOR HIS WORK WITH HUMBOLDT SQUID--WILL BE DR. OCTOPUS.

IT WON'T BE THE GREATEST, BUT JORDAN'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH IT.

End



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KRYPTONIA - PCP